

CLAIMS

- 1) Use of a lactic acid bacteria strain capable of decreasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines and bacterial LPS, for producing a composition which regulates the inflammatory response of enterocytes.
- 2) Use according to Claim 1, characterized in that said strain is also capable of increasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines.
- 3) Use according to either of Claims 1 or 2, characterized in that said bacterial strain is an *L. casei* strain.
- 4) Use according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said bacterial strain is the *L. casei* strain CNCM I-1518.
- 5) Use according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that said composition is in the form of a food supplement.
- 6) Use according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that said composition is in the form of a fermented dairy product.
- 7) Process for screening novel lactic acid bacterial strains which have properties which modulate non-specific immunity, characterized in that it comprises the selection of lactic acid bacteria strains capable of inhibiting the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines and bacterial LPS.
- 8) Process according to Claim 7, characterized in that it also comprises a step for selecting strains capable of increasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines and, optionally, a step for selecting strains which exert no effect on the production of NO by non-activated enterocytes.

